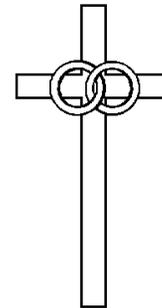


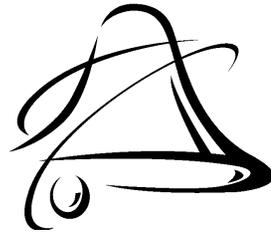


12419 Chillicothe Road  
Chesterland, Ohio 44026  
440-729-1688  
christpcusa.org  
cpcchimes@sbcglobal.net

# WEDDING GUIDE



SO THEY ARE NO LONGER TWO,  
BUT ONE. – MATTHEW 19:6



A church wedding is a ceremony recognizing a covenanted committed relationship that has its foundation in God's love in Christ. The presiding pastor represents the church and congregation as he leads the service and asks for God's blessing.

This union between man and woman is comparable to that between Christ and the Church. It is to be self-giving, based on unconditional love, and entered into reverently, not casually. It requires the deepest commitment and a lifelong decision to love, support, encourage and serve each other.

Couples wanting to be married at Christ Presbyterian Church should first check with the office manager about availability of the desired date. They will then meet with the pastor for guidance in planning their wedding.

We hope this wedding guide will be helpful to couples preparing to be married.

Your wedding is a special and memorable Christian occasion, sanctified and blessed by our Father God. To make your wedding joyful and personal, we want to serve and support you and help design the wedding service that will be best for you. While doing that, we seek to make the ceremony pleasing to God, blessed by God and guided by God.

Please call the church office, 440-729-1688, to ask about topics not covered in this guide.



## Suggested Music (continued)

	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Category</u>
<b>Candlelighting</b>		
How Beautiful	Paris	Contemp. Christian
Wedding Prayer	Dunlap	Contemp. Christian
As Close as a Prayer	Jackson	Popular
One Hand, One Heart	Bernstein	Popular
<b>Recessional</b>		
Rigaudon	Campra	Classical
Bridal March	Wagner	March
Prince of Denmark's March	Clarke	March
Trumpet Voluntary	Purcell	March

## Rehearsal and Ceremony

Weddings may be performed in the sanctuary or in the outdoor pavilion. The narthex and sanctuary are normally used for rehearsals.

- The sanctuary seats approximately 300 people.
- The pavilion seats approximately 50 people.
- When reserving the church sanctuary or pavilion, two additional rooms will be included for the bridal party to use for dressing and assembling before the ceremony.
- A building and use form must be filled out and filed with the church office manager to reserve the necessary rooms for the rehearsal and wedding.
- A custodial fee will be charged for setup and cleanup of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall if those rooms are used.

## Considerations for the Ceremony and Wedding

- Duties of bridesmaids
- Duties of ushers and groomsmen
- Who and what will be included in the rehearsal
- Scripture readings
- Choices for processional
- Arrival time at church before the ceremony
- Seating for the bride's and groom's families (separate sections or intermingled)
- Name of person, to be given to the pastor, who will be responsible for guest book and removal of unity candle
- Time restrictions
- Denomination restrictions

## Logistics for the Wedding

- The bridal party and family members may have access to the building a maximum of two hours before the ceremony.
- Decide whether the groom's attendants will serve as ushers or if ushers will be selected separately.
- Ladies in the bridal party may dress in Room 12, and the gentlemen may use Room 8.
- Ladies in the bridal party will walk to Fellowship Hall, using the north stairway. The doors between Fellowship Hall and the narthex remain closed until music begins, prompting the bridesmaids to proceed into the sanctuary.
- Groomsmen use the aisle on the right (when facing the cross) to proceed into the sanctuary.
- Bridesmaids use the aisle on the left.
- The bridal party may stand in the chancel area in whatever formation the bridal couple prefers.
- When all attendants are in place, the double doors between Fellowship Hall and the narthex are opened, and the bride and person or persons accompanying her will walk down the aisle to the front of the sanctuary.
- After the ceremony, the bride and groom usually walk down the aisle the groomsmen used.

## Pew Dismissal

Following the ceremony, guests usually exit by rows, prompted by ushers or the bride and groom.

## Receiving Line

The receiving line can be formed in the narthex, with placement dependent on whether guests exit the church or move into Fellowship Hall for a reception.

## Suggested Music

	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Category</u>
<b>Prelude</b>		
Aria (from "Water Music")	Handel	Classical
Ave Maria	Schubert	Classical
If Thou Art Near	Bach	Classical
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach	Classical
Largo	Handel	Classical
Prelude in C	Bach	Classical
I Will Be Here	Chapman	Contemp. Christian
Love Will Be Our Home	Chapman	Contemp. Christian
Shine On Us	Smith	Contemp. Christian
The Wedding	Card	Contemp. Christian
From This Moment On	Shania Twain	Popular
If	Gates	Popular
One Love	Carpenter	Popular
Perhaps Love	John Denver	Popular
Theme from Ice Castles (Through the Eyes of Love)	Hamlisch	Popular
Wedding Song	Stookey	Popular
Morning Has Broken		Sacred
<b>Seating Mothers</b>		
Canon in D	Pachelbel	Classical
<b>Processional</b>		
Trumpet Tune	Purcell	March
Trumpet Voluntary	Clarke	March
Wedding March	Mendelssohn	March
Wedding Processional from Sound of Music	Rogers and Hammerstein	March
<b>Service</b>		
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling		Sacred
O Perfect Love		Sacred
Ode to Joy (Joyful, Joyful)	Beethoven	Sacred
The Lord's Prayer	Malotte	Sacred

(continued)

## Wedding Bulletin

The couple may choose to print a wedding bulletin or furnish bulletin paper for printing by the office staff. For a more formal bulletin, the couple may want to engage a professional printer.

### Fees and Honorariums

4-hour use of sanctuary and 2 rooms for rehearsal and wedding (includes \$100 custodial fee)	\$300
4-hour use of Fellowship Hall for reception (includes \$100 custodial fee)	\$300
Additional setup and custodial fee for use of pavilion	\$100
Church Organist	\$150
Clergy	\$300

### Payment of Fees

- Fees for building use are to be paid in the church office prior to the wedding rehearsal, with checks made payable to Christ Presbyterian Church.
- Payment for musical services should be made directly to the musicians and soloist before the rehearsal date.
- A separate payment for custodial services must be submitted to the church office before the rehearsal.

## Guest Book

The guest book may be placed on the table in the narthex.

### Gathering Outside the Church

Bird seed, balloons, bubbles and small bells are permitted as a way to celebrate the newly married couple. Rice and other items that detract from the appearance of the property and are difficult to remove are not permitted.

### Reception in Fellowship Hall

No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the church building or on the grounds.

A canopy, plants, and other decorations, furnished and arranged by the bridal couple, may be used in Fellowship Hall. Those plans can be discussed with clergy of Christ Presbyterian Church.

### Officiating Clergy

Customarily, a pastor from Christ Church will officiate at the wedding ceremony, and the pastor would attend the rehearsal. If a family member or friend of the bride or groom would be officiating, we ask that the pastor from Christ Church be contacted.

Certificates of marriage are provided by the church and will be completed by the pastor performing the ceremony.

### Premarital Discussions and Counseling

Prior to the wedding, the officiating pastor will meet with the bride and groom for marriage preparation. That process should be started soon after a wedding date has been set.

## **Music**

For the best results at your wedding, we suggest that you use the church organist. You should contact the organist directly and confirm the dates and times for rehearsals and the wedding ceremony. The church organist, if not available, will suggest a substitute. (For organist fees, see page 6, Fees and Honorariums).

A wedding is considered a Christian worship service; therefore, it is customary to select music that is appropriate and in keeping with the standards of the church. A list of suitable selections is at the back of this brochure.

If a couple has other selections in mind that do not appear on the list, they will have time to discuss their choices with the pastor and organist.

The couple may wish to use music not listed in this brochure. In those circumstances, the organist will work with them to create an appropriate program consistent with their desires.

The organist and pastors have contacts with vocalists and instrumentalists and can make recommendations, if needed. Soloists and instrumentalists are optional, at the request of the bride and groom.

## **Flowers and Accessories**

The bride and groom, with or without their florist, should visit the sanctuary or pavilion before the wedding to determine what floral arrangements and other adornments, such as aisle runners, candles and pew decorations, would enhance the ceremony.

Recommendations for placement of the adornments:

- Flowers may be placed in the chancel.
- The wood partition in front of the choir area may be decorated.

- Pew bows are difficult to attach, and sticky substances (such as glue and tape) are not permitted.
- A runner, provided by the florist, may be placed on the aisle for the bride's entrance. The runner should be pinned in place so it does not roll back. If rose petals are desired, silk is preferred.
- Flowers and accessories for which the florist is responsible must be delivered to the church two hours before the ceremony. That amount of time is necessary to ensure that all decorating is completed before guests are to arrive.

## **Candles**

The unity candle and other candles used for the ceremony are to be furnished by the bride and groom.

The table under the cross may be moved away from the wall, allowing the couple to walk behind the table and face the congregation as they light the candles.

The couple should decide when the three candles should be extinguished:

- The outside candles (representing the couple) can be extinguished or can remain lit throughout the ceremony.
- If all three candles remain lit, that symbolizes personal union with family ties.
- If only the unity candle remains lit, the focus is on the marital union.

## **Photography and Videography**

Photography and videography are usually permitted during the ceremony, but that should be discussed with the officiating clergy and the photographer.

### **Fees Adjustments for Members**

Members of Christ Church pay the custodial fee but are not charged for use of the church; rather, they often give the pastor an honorarium at the time of the rehearsal. When deciding on an honorarium, the couple should consider the following:

- The number of professional hours spent with the couple in premarital conferences.
- The hourly compensation one customarily pays to other professionals in the area.
- The total cost of the wedding, mindful that the wedding ceremony is the most significant part of the day.

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